

REMARKS

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments.

Claims 22-24, 27-31, 34-36 and 40-82 have been cancelled to eliminate any extant issues and will be pursued in a separate application. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Upon entry of this amendment, the pending claims (all of which have been allowed by the Examiner in the 2/26/2003 Office Action) will be 21, 25-26, 32-33 and 37-39.

There are no issues related to the above-referenced allowed claims and only allowed claims will be present in this application upon entry of this amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this amendment should be entered and the application allowed to issue.

The establishment of a Continuing Prosecution Application and the entry of the amendment dated February 16, 2001 are gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 23 and 24 are objected to, but the basis for the objection is not found in the Office Action. Authorization is hereby given to change their dependency to Claim 21 by Examiner's Amendment.

A three-month petition for extension of time was filed on August 26, 2003, extending the period of response to the February 26, 2003 Office Action from May 26, 2003 to August 26, 2003. A Notice of Appeal was filed on August 26, 2003. A four month petition for extension of time is submitted concurrently herewith, continuing the pendency of this application.

There are presently no issues, and the case is not under final rejection. This amendment is fully sufficient to put this application in condition for allowance, therefore there is no need for continued examination and therefore no need to file a Request For Continued Examination (RCE). Alternately, in the event the Examiner or Commissioner disagrees, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (114122-00107) for any fees and a Request For Continued Examination is hereby made.

Kenneth J. BEATTIE
Serial No.: 09/063,356
Amendment dated 2/26/2004

- 5 -

In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME
COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (114122-00107).

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth BEATTIE

Date: February 26, 2004

BY: 

Brian C. Jones

Registration No. 37,857

BLANK ROME LLP
Watergate
600 New Hampshire Avenue,
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 772-5827 (phone)
(202) 572-1427 (facsimile)